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## ABSTRACTS

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### Social classes, the crisis of the authoritarian regime and democratic transition: with the cases of Brazil and Spain in a comparative light.

The elections of Raul Alfonsín in Argentina at the end of 1983, of Julio María Sanguinetti in Uruguay in November 1984 and the indirect election of Tancredo Neves in Brazil in January 1985, have demonstrated the necessity of a theoretical debate on transition and democratisation, in a comparative perspective. The said perspective does not only refer to Latin American countries, but also to processes of democratisation which in their time have taken place in Southern Europe (Spain, Greece and Portugal). Of course, this generates problems of a methodological nature, to be found in comparisons and which are set down in social formations of a dissimilar capitalist nature. This implies the Authoritarian states according to the themes of transition, the nature of the democratic system and the political regime.

The most relevant theoretical lack has been the absence of works dealing with the structural divergences and similarities between the different states, seen from its po-

sition in the international system. This is surprising, if one considers that been a marked internationalisation of the capitalist economy, which ensures a homogenisation of the economic policies which are applied both in the economies of developed countries and in those of underdeveloped countries. This shows the necessity for the formulation of a theoretical model which explains from a global or international point of view, the differences and similarities of the political, economical and social processes which take place in these countries. Up to a point, we are trying in a preliminary and provisional way to approach the aforementioned model on the basis of a comparative study between Brazil and Spain. The choice of these countries is based partly on the similarity of the economic and industrial development which takes place in the authoritarian period, and partly on the differences which arise from their unequal regional position in the world system.

## The Euro-Arab dialogue (EAD)

The EAD which began in the decade of the seventies as a consequence of the oil crisis, has developed in a double way: economic and politic, being the last one the most important.

The system has its center of decision in the Euro-Arab General Commission. The ambitious goals of a further economic cooperation were briskly, mainly due to the opposition of the Arabs which claimed for a more favourable answer to their political demands towards the Israel-Arab conflict. Nevertheless, the Communities have shown a great political discretion as they were limited by the intense pressures of the U.S.A., as it is a clear exemple what happened after the Venice Declaration (June 13, 1980). That is the main reason whay the Communities have only reaffirmed their initial commitment in the Declaration of November 6, 1973, and so not satisfy the desires of the Arab countries.

Even if, in periods of political crisis the organs of the EAD have not functioned satisfactory, and so the results of the dialogue have not been very brilliant, we can point out some positive results: the creation of a minimal collective strategy, and the eclosion of an original system which allows at the same time to cover questions of the EEC competence and the ones attended by the political cooperation.

Anyway, the limitis and precarity of the European political cooperation are exemplified with a recent example: U.K, F.R.G. and Netherland have not retired their objections to open a dialogue with the PLO till U.S.A. government has done the same.

In this moment, the previous situation of is changing, it is possible some optimism. Everything depends now on the future Peace Conference which sooner or later, will have place, if the two superpowers finally agree.

## Torture and International Law

In short, and as we indicated in the heading of this piece, the Declaration on the Protection of All People against Torture and other Cruel Treatment or Punishment, be they Inhuman or Degrading, of 1975, supposes at the same time and «end», inasmuch that with it is produced a concrete develop-

ment of the prohibition of torture, which had already been established in the important works on Human Rights which preceded it. This can be constituted as an authentic development of International Law, taking into consideration the International Tribunal of Justice, as was indicated in the

eighth paragraph of the preamble to Resolution 3.232 (XXIX) on the 12th of November 1974: A «principle» inasmuch as the aforementioned declaration will mark not only the beginning of the elaboration of the Convention against Torture, but also, and what is more decisive, the contents of it.

Finally, to mark the effectiveness of the Convention against Torture, it will be important as it makes its advances in other related areas and notably if some project of the International Penal Code is finally agreed on; and not because it might act as a panacea, but because it will be indicative of what is to follow, advancing in the same direction.

In conclusion, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment, pro-

ves to be complementary to a system which has already been functioning with good results and which is a model for some excessively given to «comparisons». It's real value, so unique that it may be assessed in it's justness, when some years have passed from it's being set in motion, yet when it's application may be limited to a few member states of the European Council —the minimum limit for it to take effect, according to article 19,1 being seven—; in the sense that Jacques Gautier expressed: «Mieux vaut au départ une convention véritablement efficace entre un petit nombre des pays qu'une convention inefficace acceptable par tous. En effet, la première pourra s'étendre un jour à d'autres, tandis que la seconde ne pourra pas s'améliorer».

## External debt: from the unavoidable imperative of the world market to the crisis of the model of industrialisation

Since the outbreak of the crisis of Mexico's external debt in August 1982, a large part of the analyses of the problem have emphasised the importance of, first of all, the redeeming rôle played by the recycling of so-called Petrodollars. Without doubt, this factor has had its relative importance, but in our opinion, they have performed a secondary rôle subsequent to the excessive process of monetary accumulation as opposed to real accumulation, and the tendency for the rate of profit to fall. Considered from this perspective, this work attempts to contribute to the im-

se amalgam of publications on the theme. The aforementioned aim is not, in any way, boastful since as much from the starting point —where the problem is posed in the framework of the disorder between the process of real accumulation and that of monetary accumulation (Chapter 2) —to the way out of the crisis of the debt (studied in Chapter 4), I believe that it represents a valid and novel interpretation of the problem.

This work places itself alongside those studies which approach the problem of the external debt of third world countries from beyond the exter-

nal and catalytic factors of the subject; that is to say, the types of interest involved, the terms of the exchange and the types of currency of the aforementioned countries. This provides a setting for it in the wider field of the crisis of the model of industrialisation and fordist development, applied specifically in developing countries over recent decades.

As we have already indicated in Chapter 2, we pose the problem of the crisis of external debt in a framework that certainly goes beyond the surplus of liquidity it is in fact and element of the matter. We centre it in the disorder between the process of monetary accumulation, which was noticeably high in the '70's, and that of real accumulation, characterised by a crisis. Inside the basic process it seems to me adequate to analyse the tendency for the rate of profit to fall, expressed

by the aid of various indicators. I estimate that this additional element is appropriate, faced with the more precise definition of the global setting. Subsequently, in Chapter 3, I analyse the magnitude, contradictions and demands of the crisis of external debt of Third World countries. Without pausing, I set out in Chapter 4 the alternative solutions to the crisis; with particular reference in point 4.1 to the solutions furnished by what we might call «the theoretical body of the dominant theory». In point 4.2, I analyse the solution or alternative that is considered as resulting from the crisis of the debt, in contrast to the crisis of the model of development of industrialisation. Finally, in Chapter 5, I summarise some of the conclusions which derive from the global analysis of the problem.